

U.S. Courthouse  
1010 Fifth Avenue  
Seattle  
King County  
Washington

HABS No. WA-152

HABS  
WASH  
17-SEAT  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Historic American Buildings Survey  
United States Courthouse

HABS  
WASH  
17-SEAT,  
6-  
U.S. Courthouse, Seattle  
HABS No. WA-152  
Page 1

Location: 1010 Fifth Avenue  
Seattle, King County, Washington

UTM References: Zone 32  
Easting 550 360  
Northing 52 72 660

Present Owner and Occupant: United States Government

Present Use: United States Courthouse

Significance:

At the time of its completion in August 1940, the United States Courthouse in Seattle was the first building in the West to be designated solely as a Federal courthouse. It was the second Federal courthouse building to be constructed in the United States. The building embodies a Modernistic style of Federal architecture that was to disappear after World War II. Classical proportions, coupled with art deco period details and a formally arranged lawn, make the courthouse a unique and vital structure in Seattle's Central Business District.

## Part I. Historical Information

### A. Physical History:

The Federal Courthouse is on a one block site bounded by Fifth and Sixth Avenues on the west and east, and Spring and Madison Streets on the north and south.

The site lies midway between the downtown Fifth Avenue shopping district, two blocks north of the Courthouse, and the City-County governmental complex two blocks to the south along Fifth Avenue. Directly across Fifth Avenue from the Courthouse is the city library. A block further west is the 40-story Seattle First National Bank Tower and the heart of the financial district.

The site's eastern border is defined by ten lanes of Interstate Highway 5, which slices through downtown Seattle parallel to Sixth Avenue. The Courthouse stands like a Modernistic-styled wall, separating the central business district (CBD) from the roar of traffic along I-5.

The 240 ft. x 255 ft. site slopes downward approximately 24 ft. from Sixth to Fifth Avenues. Only one-third of the site is covered by the 104 ft. x 220 ft. Courthouse building. The building's long principal facade, facing Fifth Avenue, is separated from the street by a large green lawn, which is one of the major green open spaces in the CBD. The city library across the street is the visual border to the open area.

A straight walkway with several flights of steps extends from Fifth Avenue through the middle of the lawn to the front doors. Northern Oak trees line the lawn's Madison and Spring Street borders. The trees frame the Courthouse's symmetrically ordered principal facade. Edges of the lawn are planted with Darwin Barberry and English Ivy.

The shorter north and south facades of the building are separated from sidewalks by 9 foot wide planting areas with Darwin Barberry and English Ivy. A 14 foot wide lawn with Japanese Yews in granite planters separates the rear facade from the Sixth Avenue sidewalk.

1. Date of erection: August 1940.
2. Architect: Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect  
Stanley Underwood, Consulting Architect
3. Original and subsequent owners: United States Government
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:  
N.P. Severin Construction Company of Chicago, Illinois  
(Note: Seattle workmen and materials were used)  
Otis Elevator Company
5. Major alterations and additions:  
  
1974 - Air conditioning project.

B. Historical Context:

The Courthouse site was originally the location of Seattle's first hospital. On April 25, 1878, the Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence established Providence Hospital at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Madison Streets overlooking Seattle and Elliott Bay. The old Moss Family residence, the first structure on the site, was used for the original hospital. In 1882 the Sisters purchased the entire block (between Sixth and Fifth Avenues and Spring and Madison Streets) and built a new 25-bed structure. The hospital continued to serve the growing city until September 24, 1911, when the facility was moved to larger quarters on 17th Avenue. Seattle's first hospital site was added to the Seattle Historical Society's List of Historic Sites in 1967. A bronze commemorative plaque has been installed at the foot of the stairway to the main entrance at Fifth Avenue.

On June 22, 1939, Congress approved \$1,636,000 for site acquisition and construction of a new courthouse building in Seattle.

The United States Courthouse in Seattle was the first building in the West to be designed solely as a Federal courthouse. It was the second Federal courthouse building to be constructed in the United States (the first was in New York City). The building embodies a Modernistic style of Federal architecture that was to disappear after World War II. Classical proportions, coupled with art deco period details and a formally arranged lawn, make the Courthouse a unique and vital structure in Seattle's central business district.

Seattle's new Courthouse brought under one roof numerous Federal court agencies that had been scattered throughout the city. Crowded quarters in the Old Post Office building (at the corner of Fourth and Marion -- subsequently torn down in 1965) were remedied by the new Courthouse. When the building was occupied, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Clerk's Office, Probation Office, Referee in Bankruptcy, Marshal's Office, Commissioner's Office, Secret Service, and Alcohol Tax Unit were brought closer together. Although the Secret Service and Alcohol Tax Unit were Treasury Department Agencies, much of their work involved prosecution of criminals in cooperation with Justice Department (the two agencies vacated the building in the 1950's).

The first judges to occupy the building were Judge John J. Bowen, Judge Lloyd L. Black, and Judge Jeremiah Neterer. Judge Bowen, for many years the Chief Judge, took a personal interest in the maintenance of the Courthouse and its grounds. Trials during the early years ranged from admiralty cases concerning maritime affairs and lawsuits of differing nationalities (Washington State shares its northern border with Canada), to smuggling trials and international land disputes. Many foreign immigrants to the State underwent naturalization procedures in the Seattle Courthouse.

## Part II. Architectural Information

### A. Architect:

Louis A. Simon was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1933, he became Supervising Architect in the Federal Works Branch of the Department of the Treasury. During the 1930's Simon was

sent to Europe to study the design and the applicability of emerging techniques of modern architecture to the construction of U.S. Government buildings. It is due to his influence that the Modernistic style became popular in Federal building designs. He retired in 1941.

Although Louis Simon was the Chief Administrator of the Office, the Courthouse was probably designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood, the Consulting Architect working under contract with the office of the Supervising Architect. Underwood was educated at Yale and Harvard. During the late 1920's he designed numerous west coast railroad stations for the Union Pacific Railroad and was known as an authority on small town railroad depots. Although many of Underwood's depots were in the Spanish Revival style, later buildings became distinctly Modernistic. In the late 1930's he became a Consulting Architect of the Office of the Supervising Architect. The Modernistic-Neo-Classical San Francisco Mint was designed under Underwood's supervision in 1936-37. After completion of the Seattle Courthouse, he was consultant to large-scale defense housing projects during and after World War II.

1. Architectural character:

The Courthouse is an austere example of the Modernistic style. Typical to the style, the entire building rises in a series of setbacks. The first three stories form a broad pedestal. The next seven stories (which constitute the "main body" of the building) step-up from the pedestal. A two-story penthouse caps the building.

Due to the building's height, most ornamentation occurs on the first three stories, within eyesight of pedestrians at ground level. In accord with art deco-era design, terra cotta ornamentation is generally geometrical with accenting circles, waves, and scallops. Geometric designs on the concrete walkway leading to the front entry are in harmony with other Modernistic motifs on the building.

The smooth, symmetrical Courthouse principal facade is a dignified backdrop to the angular eruptions of the international style public library across Fifth Avenue. The classical ornamentation of nearby turn of the century brick buildings is accented by the simple proportions of Courthouse facades.

2. Condition of fabric: Building is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

The Courthouse has a reinforced concrete skeleton frame with poured-in-place reinforced concrete outer walls. "Fireproof" terra cotta hollowtile interior partitions are surfaced with smooth plaster. All facades of the building are sheathed with terra cotta plates. The 1 foot x 2 foot plates on the first story have the color and texture of red granite. All upper stories have 1 ft. x 4 ft. plates, the color and texture of light gray granite. On the first three floors terra cotta plates are attached in English bond, with



alternating courses of headers and stretches. Plates on the upper seven stories are all laid in stretcher bond. Terra cotta ornamentation around windows has the color and texture of adjoining walls.

Red granite cheek blocks at the front and rear entrances match terra cotta "granite" on the ground story.

Concrete spread footings transmit the weight and mass of the building over the site's sandy soil. Floors are steel-reinforced concrete flat slab.

Horizontal roofs are surfaced with built-up asphalt and gravel.

#### Principal Facade

Although the period and style of the Courthouse are Modernistic, the overall massing is Neo-Classical. The first three stories are a podium or pedestal. The next seven floors create the illusion of a colonnade; a series of dark window bays have the vertical proportions of columns. A row of single windows above the "colonnade" bays creates the effect of dentils beneath a classical entablature.

The first story, entirely sheathed with "red granite" terra cotta plates, has the appearance of a stone foundation. The three main entry doors are recessed four feet into the middle of the ground story. Each entryway has a pair of aluminum double swing doors.

Fluted cast bronze trim surrounds each door. The cast bronze head above each door has an integral light receptacle. Cast bronze letters above the doors read, "UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE;" 5 feet wide x 6 feet tall first story windows are divided into nine panes with a single, bottom-opening vent in the middle. This division and type of opening are typical to windows throughout the building.

Because the light-gray terra cotta cladding begins on the second story, the second and third stories appear to rise out of the "red granite" first story. The first three stories together make a solid pedestal for the smaller-dimensioned seven-story "main body" of the building.

Ten bays of windows break-up the mass of the pedestal. Each bay is composed of steel-framed windows on the second and third stories, with cast iron spandrel panels between stories. Both the windows and the spandrel panels are recessed into the wall 4 inches (in order to create a shadow effect). Window frames and spandrels are painted the same dark brown thus creating dark vertical strips along the facade. Spandrel panels on the second story have a raised, square-geometric design. Panels between second and third stories have a modified art deco-inspired Greek key fret with fluting below. Terra cotta trim around the windows has raised square geometric designs. A denticulated moulding acts as a cornice at the top of the third story.

The seven story "main body" of the building is set back 15 feet from the first three stories. Nine window bays, each six stories tall, break-up the mass of the facade. The bays are more simple than second and third story bays. Cast iron spandrels are divided by steel bars into the same divisions as the windows, giving the bay the appearance of a solid vertical band of windows. Unlike lower floors, window surrounds on the building's "main body" are not ornamented.

Fifteen 5 foot x 5 foot square windows extend horizontally along the tenth story, at the top of the main body, creating the visual effect of dentils below a classical entablature. The windows pull the vision away from the tight mass of window bays at the center of the facade.

The seven story tall main body steps back another 15 feet at the penthouse level. The rectangular penthouse has nine, two story tall window bays.

#### Side Facades

The north and south facades are identical (except for a first story opening into the loading dock area on the north facade). The first three stories on north and south facades have only five window bays. Ornamentation around windows within the bays is identical to principal facade ornamentation.

The main body on north and south facades has a single seven-story tall window bay. The bay is four windows wide. The windows cast light into the two story tall courtrooms inside. On the north and south facades there are only five single windows at the top of the main body and only three windows opening into the penthouse.

#### Rear Facade

The rear facade facing Sixth Avenue is the secondary entrance to the building. The facade is identical to the principal facade, with the exception of the first floor. Because the site slopes to the west, the red granite-colored first story is below ground level. The three entrance doors on the rear facade open directly from street level onto the second story. Each door has a concrete marquee extending one foot from the wall surface. A wave motif accents the edge of the marquee. Since the rear facade is 15 feet from the street, only a single pair of granite cheek blocks flanks the entrance doors.

#### C. Description of Interior:

The Courthouse has a gross area of 167,210 square feet over 10 floors. A below ground level basement occupies only the southwest corner of the building. The basement is divided entirely into storage areas for various agencies housed in the building.

First through third floors follow the 104 foot x 220 foot foundation dimensions. As is typical throughout the building, the area around elevators in the center of the building forms the service core. Men's and women's restrooms, stairways, and storage areas are situated to either side of the elevator lobby. The first three floors house offices of the Clerk of the Court, U.S. Marshal, Probate Officer, and Building Manager.

The building steps back 15 feet at the fourth floor. Fourth through the tenth floors all have the same 74 foot x 190 foot dimensions. They comprise the "main body" of the building. Fourth through eighth floors have a single courtroom located at either the north or south end of the building. Offices and judge's chambers occupy the remaining spaces. The offices of U.S. Senator Henry Jackson are located along the west wall of the eighth floor.

#### Interior - Lobbies

The lobbies at the principal facade and the rear facade have retained most of their original details (the two lobbies are practically identical). The aluminum entry doors open into a vestibule which is illuminated by pyramid-shaped incandescent light fixtures, custom designed by the original architect. The rear facade vestibule has art deco-ornamented aluminum covers over steam radiators. The vestibule opens into a long public lobby that ends at the elevators. Two elevators are located on the lobby's north wall and two on the south wall. Baked black enamel elevator doors have fluted aluminum ornamentation running vertically along each door panel.

Lobby and vestibule walls are surfaced with terra cotta panels. The three colors of terra cotta used (pink, turquoise, and beige) were common to Modernistic-styled buildings. A modified terra cotta "dentil mould" accents the junction between walls and ceiling.

The lobby ceiling is divided into 9 foot square coffers. The coffer in front of elevators has a custom designed coved light strip.

The terrazzo floor is divided into squares, generally following the divisions of the coffers on the ceiling above. The terrazzo in front of the elevators has a star-shaped design. Three colors of terrazzo (dark red, light red, and beige) highlight geometric floor designs.

Elevator lobbies on other floors are simplified versions of the main public lobbies. Third through tenth floor lobbies lack terra cotta wall paneling and elevator doors have only a single band of aluminum trim. Fluted plaster trim surrounds upper floor elevator doors. Originally, two swinging doors were located at the junction of the hallway and the elevator lobbies on the upper floors. The ornamented, bronze-framed doors were removed in 1977.

### Courtrooms

The five major courtrooms are the Courthouse's most noteworthy interior spaces. All courtrooms follow the same general plan, each having slight variations in detail. Each courtroom has 15 foot tall windows that cast light into the room. Between every two windows is a fluted doric column

of polished American black walnut. A 3 foot wide pilaster with a denticulated capital flanks each four-window bay. An aluminum grille covers the windows. Aluminum stars are fastened to grille cross-members. The aluminum grille in District Courtroom No. 4 (at the south end of the fifth floor) has a cast aluminum wheat-staff motif fixed to grille cross-members.

The wall opposite the windows has four black walnut pilasters that correspond to the columns at the windows. The walls between the pilasters are paneled with American black walnut.

Black walnut pilasters highlight the four corners of the courtroom. A wainscot running the entire circumference of the room is also of the dark wood. The judge's bench, witness box, and jury box are all paneled with black walnut veneer plywood.

Behind the judge's bench a 15 foot tall walnut paneled niche is flanked by walnut pilasters supporting a denticulated entablature. The frieze of the entablature has a honeysuckle floral motif. Walnut doors leading to the judge's chambers flank the niche. Each door is divided into raised square panels that are similar to the concentric square ornaments around principal facade windows.

Two courtrooms have a custom-designed clock behind the judge's bench. The clock has cast aluminum hands and aluminum five pointed stars in place of numerals.

Judge's chambers have coved ceilings, walnut book cabinets and custom designed lights. Cast aluminum, bell-shaped lamps project light up to the ceiling. Most of these are no longer operable and have been replaced with fluorescent ceiling lights with opaque plastic cover panels.

D. Site:

The site is a block square with Fifth and Sixth Avenues on the west and east; and Spring and Madison Streets on the north and south.

Part III. Sources of Information

- A. Original architectural drawings are retained at GSA, Region 10, in Auburn, Washington.
- B. Narrative data extracted from historical records and reports retained in Auburn, Washington.

Prepared by: Name: James Cason

Title: Regional Historic Preservation Officer

Organization: Public Buildings and Real Property

Date: April 20, 1983



Part IV. Project Information

GSA Project: Major items of work include conversion of the existing Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Courtroom, library and related facilities into a new District Courtroom and adjunct offices, 3,900 square feet judicial library located on the tenth floor, alterations necessary for interim occupancy of newly appointed judges for Circuit Court of Appeals and District Court, two additional bankruptcy clerks and alterations necessary for expansion of bankruptcy court office facilities, installation of fire safety items, upgrading of electrical system, air-conditioning system repairs and improvements, exterior repairs to windows and frames to conserve energy, and historical restoration.

Individuals involved in the alteration project:

GSA Team Leader:	William K. Maekawa
Project Architect:	Emmett W. Sarff
Mechanical Engineer:	Gannon John Gates III
Electrical Engineer:	Susan Carscaden
Structural Engineer:	Ken Bircher
Project Architect:	Freeman Fong; Hewitt/Daly Architects; Seattle
Structural Consultant:	Victor O. Gray; Victor O. Gray & Co.; Seattle
Mechanical Consultant:	Ton Zatos; Valentine, Fisher, & Tomlinson; Seattle
Electrical Consultant:	Frank Anderson; Valentine, Fisher, & Tomlinson; Seattle
Landscape:	Steven Shea; Thomas L. Berger, Assoc.; Seattle

Construction Management: Michael Stevens; Survey's, Inc.; Seattle

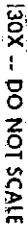
Photographer (Historical Documentation):

Aerolist Photographers, Inc.

14055 Interurban Ave. S.

Seattle, WA 98168

Note: The following data pages #18-37 have originals located in Library of Congress, Lot #

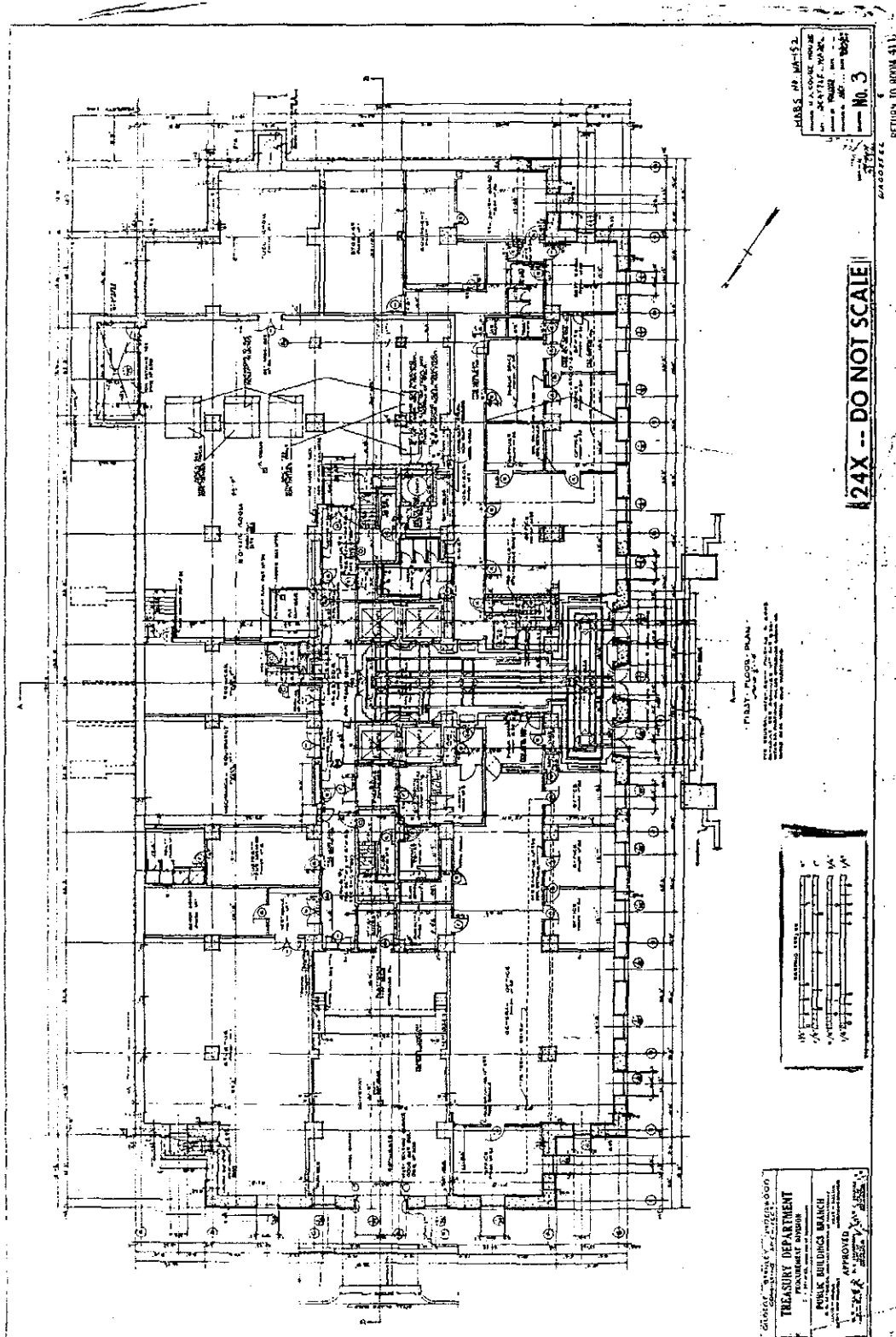
[illegible]

NOTES:

At the moment of the first sighting of the aircraft, the pilot was flying at an altitude of 10,000 feet. The aircraft was seen to be flying in a southerly direction and was seen to be flying in a southerly direction.

HAB. NO. WA-152  
U.S. COURT HOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
PLANNING PLAN  
SOUTH 8-100  
12-2-50

T1



HABS No. WA-152  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
HABS No. WA-152  
No. 3

RETURN TO ROOM 411

1/24X -- DO NOT SCALE

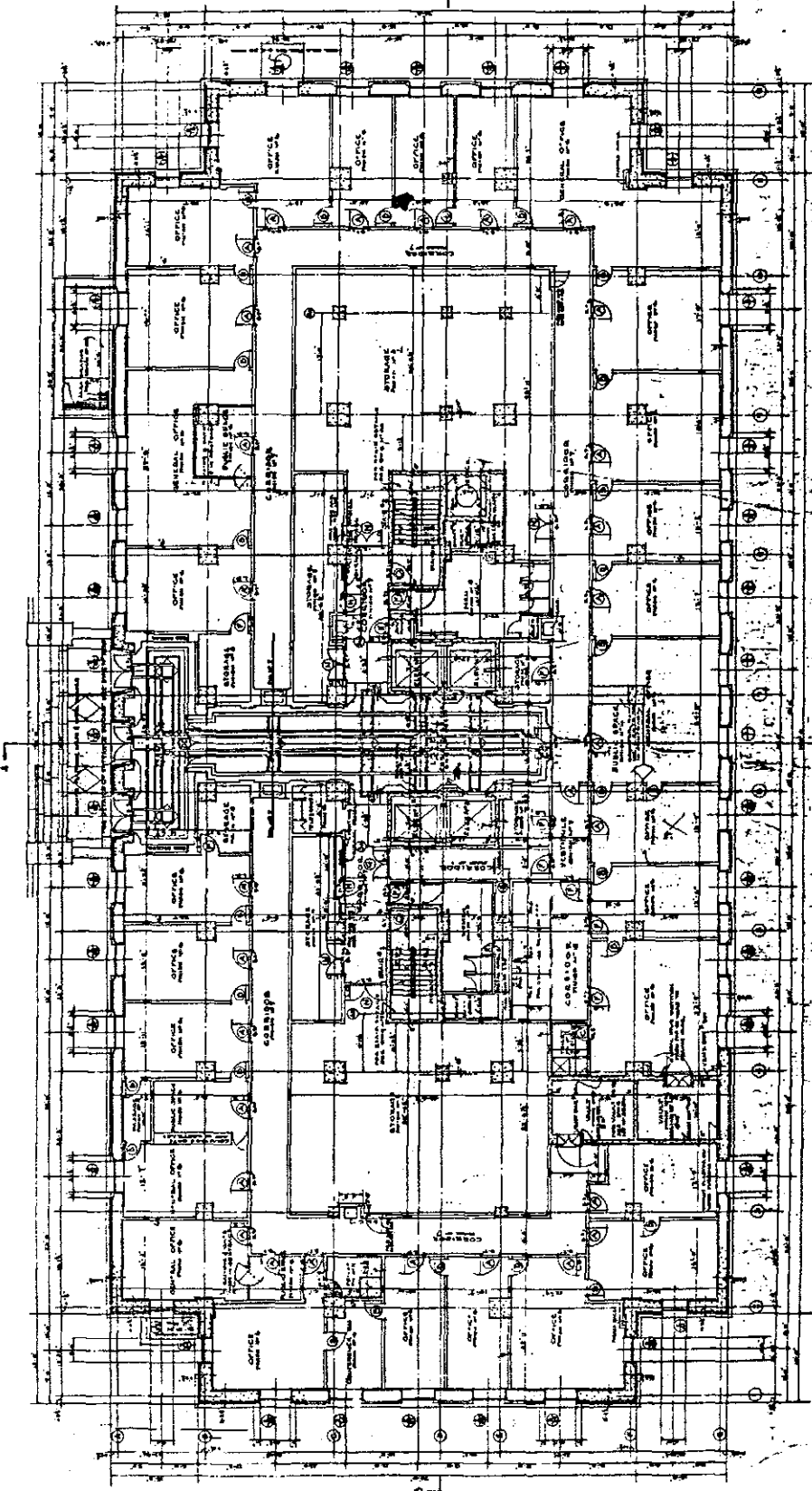
FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SEE REVISIONS, SHEET 151, FOR CHANGES  
AND FOR THE LOCATION OF THE  
STAIRS AND ELEVATORS

1/4"	1/2"	3/4"	1"	1 1/4"	1 1/2"	1 3/4"	2"	2 1/4"	2 1/2"	2 3/4"	3"	3 1/4"	3 1/2"	3 3/4"	4"	4 1/4"	4 1/2"	4 3/4"	5"	5 1/4"	5 1/2"	5 3/4"	6"	6 1/4"	6 1/2"	6 3/4"	7"	7 1/4"	7 1/2"	7 3/4"	8"	8 1/4"	8 1/2"	8 3/4"	9"	9 1/4"	9 1/2"	9 3/4"	10"	10 1/4"	10 1/2"	10 3/4"	11"	11 1/4"	11 1/2"	11 3/4"	12"	12 1/4"	12 1/2"	12 3/4"	13"	13 1/4"	13 1/2"	13 3/4"	14"	14 1/4"	14 1/2"	14 3/4"	15"	15 1/4"	15 1/2"	15 3/4"	16"	16 1/4"	16 1/2"	16 3/4"	17"	17 1/4"	17 1/2"	17 3/4"	18"	18 1/4"	18 1/2"	18 3/4"	19"	19 1/4"	19 1/2"	19 3/4"	20"	20 1/4"	20 1/2"	20 3/4"	21"	21 1/4"	21 1/2"	21 3/4"	22"	22 1/4"	22 1/2"	22 3/4"	23"	23 1/4"	23 1/2"	23 3/4"	24"	24 1/4"	24 1/2"	24 3/4"	25"	25 1/4"	25 1/2"	25 3/4"	26"	26 1/4"	26 1/2"	26 3/4"	27"	27 1/4"	27 1/2"	27 3/4"	28"	28 1/4"	28 1/2"	28 3/4"	29"	29 1/4"	29 1/2"	29 3/4"	30"	30 1/4"	30 1/2"	30 3/4"	31"	31 1/4"	31 1/2"	31 3/4"	32"	32 1/4"	32 1/2"	32 3/4"	33"	33 1/4"	33 1/2"	33 3/4"	34"	34 1/4"	34 1/2"	34 3/4"	35"	35 1/4"	35 1/2"	35 3/4"	36"	36 1/4"	36 1/2"	36 3/4"	37"	37 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3/4"	73"	73 1/4"	73 1/2"	73 3/4"	74"	74 1/4"	74 1/2"	74 3/4"	75"	75 1/4"	75 1/2"	75 3/4"	76"	76 1/4"	76 1/2"	76 3/4"	77"	77 1/4"	77 1/2"	77 3/4"	78"	78 1/4"	78 1/2"	78 3/4"	79"	79 1/4"	79 1/2"	79 3/4"	80"	80 1/4"	80 1/2"	80 3/4"	81"	81 1/4"	81 1/2"	81 3/4"	82"	82 1/4"	82 1/2"	82 3/4"	83"	83 1/4"	83 1/2"	83 3/4"	84"	84 1/4"	84 1/2"	84 3/4"	85"	85 1/4"	85 1/2"	85 3/4"	86"	86 1/4"	86 1/2"	86 3/4"	87"	87 1/4"	87 1/2"	87 3/4"	88"	88 1/4"	88 1/2"	88 3/4"	89"	89 1/4"	89 1/2"	89 3/4"	90"	90 1/4"	90 1/2"	90 3/4"	91"	91 1/4"	91 1/2"	91 3/4"	92"	92 1/4"	92 1/2"	92 3/4"	93"	93 1/4"	93 1/2"	93 3/4"	94"	94 1/4"	94 1/2"	94 3/4"	95"	95 1/4"	95 1/2"	95 3/4"	96"	96 1/4"	96 1/2"	96 3/4"	97"	97 1/4"	97 1/2"	97 3/4"	98"	98 1/4"	98 1/2"	98 3/4"	99"	99 1/4"	99 1/2"	99 3/4"	100"	100 1/4"	100 1/2"	100 3/4"	101"	101 1/4"	101 1/2"	101 3/4"	102"	102 1/4"	102 1/2"	102 3/4"	103"	103 1/4"	103 1/2"	103 3/4"	104"	104 1/4"	104 1/2"	104 3/4"	105"	105 1/4"	105 1/2"	105 3/4"	106"	106 1/4"	106 1/2"	106 3/4"	107"	107 1/4"	107 1/2"	107 3/4"	108"	108 1/4"	108 1/2"	108 3/4"	109"	109 1/4"	109 1/2"	109 3/4"	110"	110 1/4"	110 1/2"	110 3/4"	111"	111 1/4"	111 1/2"	111 3/4"	112"	112 1/4"	112 1/2"	112 3/4"	113"	113 1/4"	113 1/2"	113 3/4"	114"	114 1/4"	114 1/2"	114 3/4"	115"	115 1/4"	115 1/2"	115 3/4"	116"	116 1/4"	116 1/2"	116 3/4"	117"	117 1/4"	117 1/2"	117 3/4"	118"	118 1/4"	118 1/2"	118 3/4"	119"	119 1/4"	119 1/2"	119 3/4"	120"	120 1/4"	120 1/2"	120 3/4"	121"	121 1/4"	121 1/2"	121 3/4"	122"	122 1/4"	122 1/2"	122 3/4"	123"	123 1/4"	123 1/2"	123 3/4"	124"	124 1/4"	124 1/2"	124 3/4"	125"	125 1/4"	125 1/2"	125 3/4"	126"	126 1/4"	126 1/2"	126 3/4"	127"	127 1/4"	127 1/2"	127 3/4"	128"	128 1/4"	128 1/2"	128 3/4"	129"	129 1/4"	129 1/2"	129 3/4"	130"	130 1/4"	130 1/2"	130 3/4"	131"	131 1/4"	131 1/2"	131 3/4"	132"	132 1/4"	132 1/2"	132 3/4"	133"	133 1/4"	133 1/2"	133 3/4"	134"	134 1/4"	134 1/2"	134 3/4"	135"	135 1/4"	135 1/2"	135 3/4"	136"	136 1/4"	136 1/2"	136 3/4"	137"	137 1/4"	137 1/2"	137 3/4"	138"	138 1/4"	138 1/2"	138 3/4"	139"	139 1/4"	139 1/2"	139 3/4"	140"	140 1/4"	140 1/2"	140 3/4"	141"	141 1/4"	141 1/2"	141 3/4"	142"	142 1/4"	142 1/2"	142 3/4"	143"	143 1/4"	143 1/2"	143 3/4"	144"	144 1/4"	144 1/2"	144 3/4"	145"	145 1/4"	145 1/2"	145 3/4"	146"	146 1/4"	146 1/2"	146 3/4"	147"	147 1/4"	147 1/2"	147 3/4"	148"	148 1/4"	148 1/2"	148 3/4"	149"	149 1/4"	149 1/2"	149 3/4"	150"	150 1/4"	150 1/2"	150 3/4"	151"	151 1/4"	151 1/2"	151 3/4"	152"	152 1/4"	152 1/2"	152 3/4"	153"	153 1/4"	153 1/2"	153 3/4"	154"	154 1/4"	154 1/2"	154 3/4"	155"	155 1/4"	155 1/2"	155 3/4"	156"	156 1/4"	156 1/2"	156 3/4"	157"	157 1/4"	157 1/2"	157 3/4"	158"	158 1/4"	158 1/2"	158 3/4"	159"	159 1/4"	159 1/2"	159 3/4"	160"	160 1/4"	160 1/2"	160 3/4"	161"	161 1/4"	161 1/2"	161 3/4"	162"	162 1/4"	162 1/2"	162 3/4"	163"	163 1/4"	163 1/2"	163 3/4"	164"	164 1/4"	164 1/2"	164 3/4"	165"	165 1/4"	165 1/2"	165 3/4"	166"	166 1/4"	166 1/2"	166 3/4"	167"	167 1/4"	167 1/2"	167 3/4"	168"	168 1/4"	168 1/2"	168 3/4"	169"	169 1/4"	169 1/2"	169 3/4"	170"	170 1/4"	170 1/2"	170 3/4"	171"	171 1/4"	171 1/2"	171 3/4"	172"	172 1/4"	172 1/2"	172 3/4"	173"	173 1/4"	173 1/2"	173 3/4"	174"	174 1/4"	174 1/2"	174 3/4"	175"	175 1/4"	175 1/2"	175 3/4"	176"	176 1/4"	176 1/2"	176 3/4"	177"	177 1/4"	177 1/2"	177 3/4"	178"	178 1/4"	178 1/2"	178 3/4"	179"	179 1/4"	179 1/2"	179 3/4"	180"	180 1/4"	180 1/2"	180 3/4"	181"	181 1/4"	181 1/2"	181 3/4"	182"	182 1/4"	182 1/2"	182 3/4"	183"	183 1/4"	183 1/2"	183 3/4"	184"	184 1/4"	184 1/2"	184 3/4"	185"	185 1/4"	185 1/2"	185 3/4"	186"	186 1/4"	186 1/2"	186 3/4"	187"	187 1/4"	187 1/2"	187 3/4"	188"	188 1/4"	188 1/2"	188 3/4"	189"	189 1/4"	189 1/2"	189 3/4"	190"	190 1/4"	190 1/2"	190 3/4"	191"	191 1/4"	191 1/2"	191 3/4"	192"	192 1/4"	192 1/2"	192 3/4"	193"	193 1/4"	193 1/2"	193 3/4"	194"	194 1/4"	194 1/2"	194 3/4"	195"	195 1/4"	195 1/2"	195 3/4"	196"	196 1/4"	196 1/2"	196 3/4"	197"	197 1/4"	197 1/2"	197 3/4"	198"	198 1/4"	198 1/2"	198 3/4"	199"	199 1/4"	199 1/2"	199 3/4"	200"	200 1/4"	200 1/2"	200 3/4"	201"	201 1/4"	201 1/2"	201 3/4"	202"	202 1/4"	202 1/2"	202 3/4"	203"	203 1/4"	203 1/2"	203 3/4"	204"	204 1/4"	204 1/2"	204 3/4"	205"	205 1/4"	205 1/2"	205 3/4"	206"	206 1/4"	206 1/2"	206 3/4"	207"	207 1/4"	207 1/2"	207 3/4"	208"	208 1/4"	208 1/2"	208 3/4"	209"	209 1/4"	209 1/2"	209 3/4"	210"	210 1/4"	210 1/2"	210 3/4"	211"	211 1/4"	211 1/2"	211 3/4"	212"	212 1/4"	212 1/2"	212 3/4"	213"	213 1/4"	213 1/2"	213 3/4"	214"	214 1/4"	214 1/2"	214 3/4"	215"	215 1/4"	215 1/2"	215 3/4"	216"	216 1/4"	216 1/2"	216 3/4"	217"	217 1/4"	217 1/2"	217 3/4"	218"	218 1/4"	218 1/2"	218 3/4"	219"	219 1/4"	219 1/2"	219 3/4"	220"	220 1/4"	220 1/2"	220 3/4"	221"	221 1/4"	221 1/2"	221 3/4"	222"	222 1/4"	222 1/2"	222 3/4"	223"	223 1/4"	223 1/2"	223 3/4"	224"	224 1/4"	224 1/2"	224 3/4"	225"	225 1/4"	225 1/2"	225 3/4"	226"	226 1/4"	226 1/2"	226 3/4"	227"	227 1/4"	227 1/2"	227 3/4"	228"	228 1/4"	228 1/2"	228 3/4"	229"	229 1/4"	229 1/2"	229 3/4"	230"	230 1/4"	230 1/2"	230 3/4"	231"	231 1/4"	231 1/2"	231 3/4"	232"	232 1/4"	232 1/2"	232 3/4"	233"	233 1/4"	233 1/2"	233 3/4"	234"	234 1/4"	234 1/2"	234 3/4"	235"	235 1/4"	235 1/2"	235 3/4"	236"	236 1/4"	236 1/2"	236 3/4"	237"	237 1/4"	237 1/2"	237 3/4"	238"	238 1/4"	238 1/2"	238 3/4"	239"	239 1/4"	239 1/2"	239 3/4"	240"	240 1/4"	240 1/2"	240 3/4"	241"	241 1/4"	241 1/2"	241 3/4"	242"	242 1/4"	242 1/2"	242 3/4"	243"	243 1/4"	243 1/2"	243 3/4"	244"	244 1/4"	244 1/2"	244 3/4"	245"	245 1/4"	245 1/2"	245 3/4"	246"	246 1/4"	246 1/2"	246 3/4"	247"	247 1/4"	247 1/2"	247 3/4"	248"	248 1/4"	248 1/2"	248 3/4"	249"	249 1/4"	249 1/2"	249 3/4"	250"	250 1/4"	250 1/2"	250 3/4"	251"	251 1/4"	251 1/2"	251 3/4"	252"	252 1/4"	252 1/2"	252 3/4"	253"	253 1/4"	253 1/2"	253 3/4"	254"	254 1/4"	254 1/2"	254 3/4"	255"	255 1/4"	255 1/2"	255 3/4"	256"	256 1/4"	256 1/2"	256 3/4"	257"	257 1/4"	257 1/2"	257 3/4"	258"	258 1/4"	258 1/2"	258 3/4"	259"	259 1/4"	259 1/2"	259 3/4"	260"	260 1/4"	260 1/2"	260 3/4"	261"	261 1/4"	261 1/2"	261 3/4"	262"	262 1/4"	262 1/2"	262 3/4"	263"	263 1/4"	263 1/2"	263 3/4"	264"	264 1/4"	264 1/2"	264 3/4"	265"	265 1/4"	265 1/2"	265 3/4"	266"	266 1/4"	266 1/2"	266 3/4"	267"	267 1/4"	267 1/2"	267 3/4"	268"	268 1/4"	268 1/2"	268 3/4"	269"	269 1/4"	269 1/2"	269 3/4"	270"	270 1/4"	270 1/2"	270 3/4"	271"	271 1/4"	271 1/2"	271 3/4"	272"	272 1/4"	272 1/2"	272 3/4"	273"	273 1/4"	273 1/2"	273 3/4"	274"	274 1/4"	274 1/2"	274 3/4"	275"	275 1/4"	275 1/2"	275 3/4"	276"	276 1/4"	276 1/2"	276 3/4"	277"	277 1/4"	277 1/2"	277 3/4"	278"	278 1/4"	278 1/2"	278 3/4"	279"	279 1/4"	279 1/2"	279 3/4"	280"	280 1/4"	280 1/2"	280 3/4"
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HABS No. WA-152  
FROM U.S. COURT HOUSE  
AT SEATTLE, WASH.  
DATE 10-22-37  
DRAWN BY J. H. B. 1000

24X -- DO NOT SCALE

RETURN TO ROOM 411

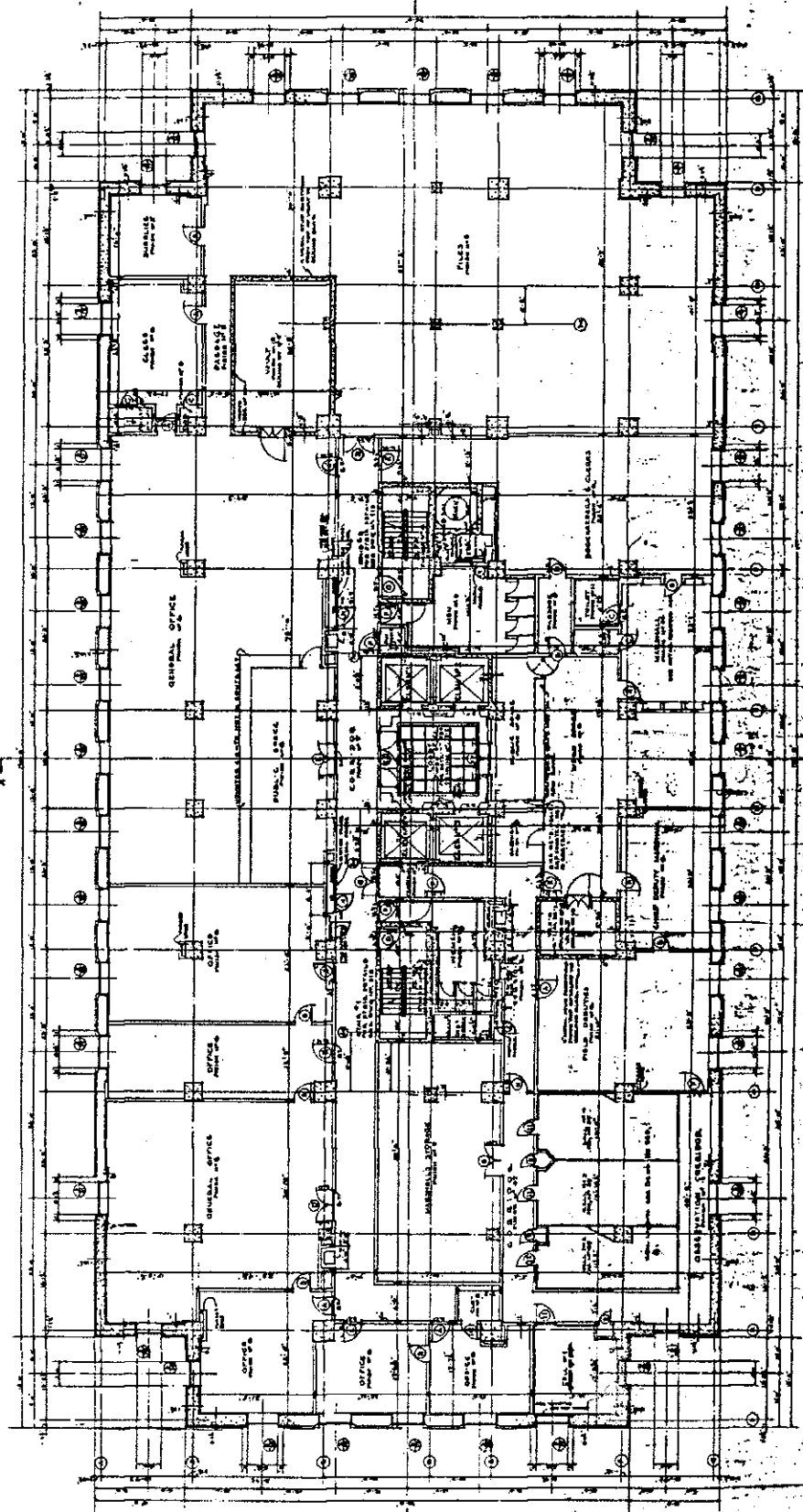


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SEE GENERAL NOTES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR  
CORRIDOR FINISHES, ELEVATOR FINISHES,  
AND FINISHES TO BE USED IN ALL ROOMS.



GILBERT STANLEY UNDERWOOD  
CONSULTING ARCHITECT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED  
J. H. B.

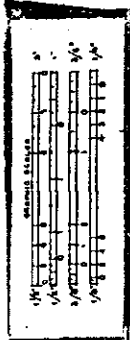


HABS No. WA-152  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
THIRD FLOOR  
RETURN TO ROOM 411

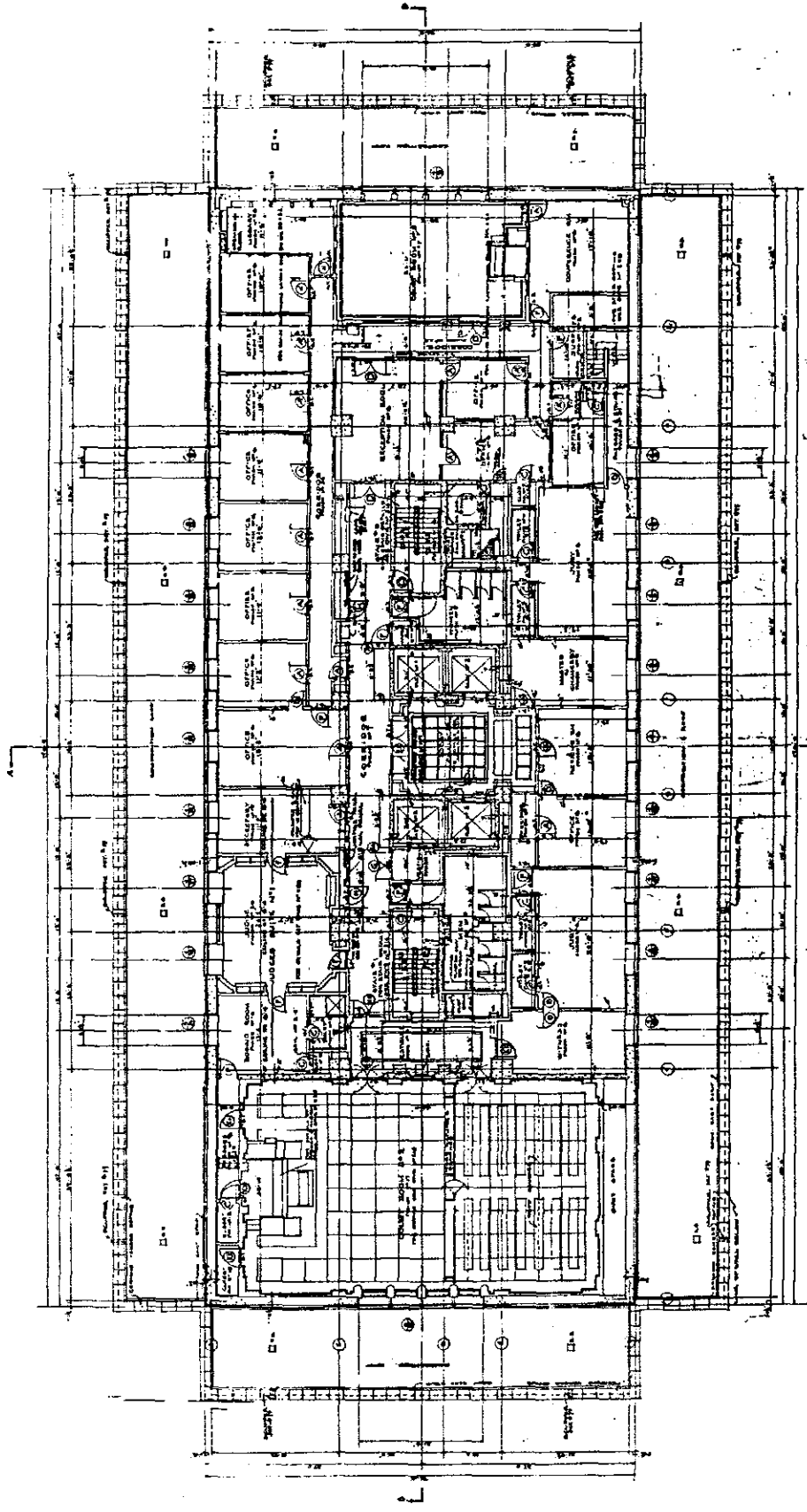
24X -- DO NOT SCALE

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SEE GENERAL NOTES, ROOM DIMENSIONS, AND  
SECTIONAL ELEVATIONS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
RE: FINISHES, MATERIALS, AND EQUIPMENT



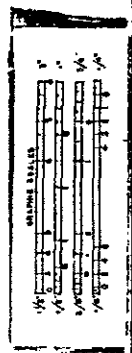
CHAS. E. BROWN & SONS, INC.  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
APPROVED  
JULY 1937



HABS No. WA-152  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
No. 6  
RETURN TO ROOM 411

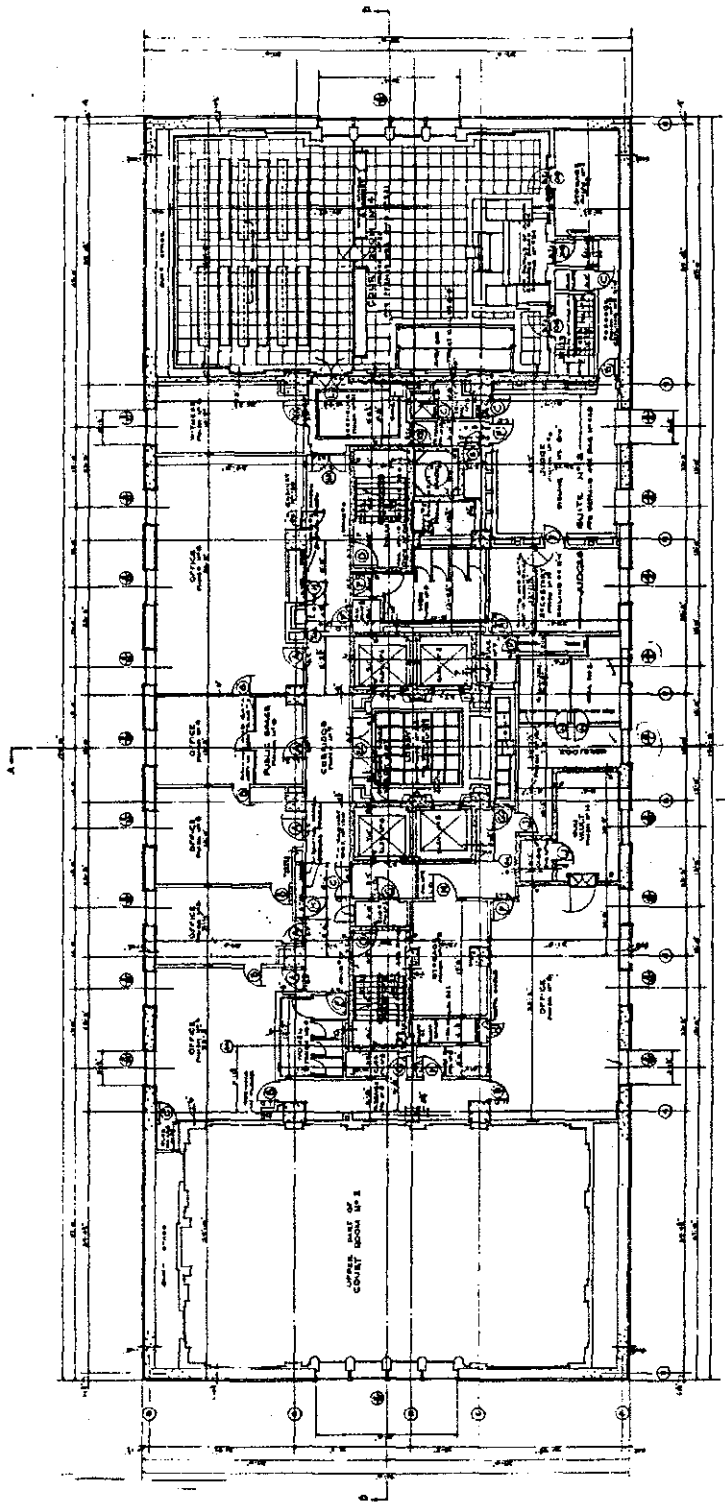
24X -- DO NOT SCALE

FOURTH FLOOR PLAN



CLARK, LAMLEY, ANDERSON  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PROCUREMENT DIVISION  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED  
JAN 1934

HABS NO. WA-152  
U.S. COURT HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
DATE: 10/1/52  
BY: [Signature]  
No. 7  
RETURN TO ROOM 414



FIFTH FLOOR PLAN  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

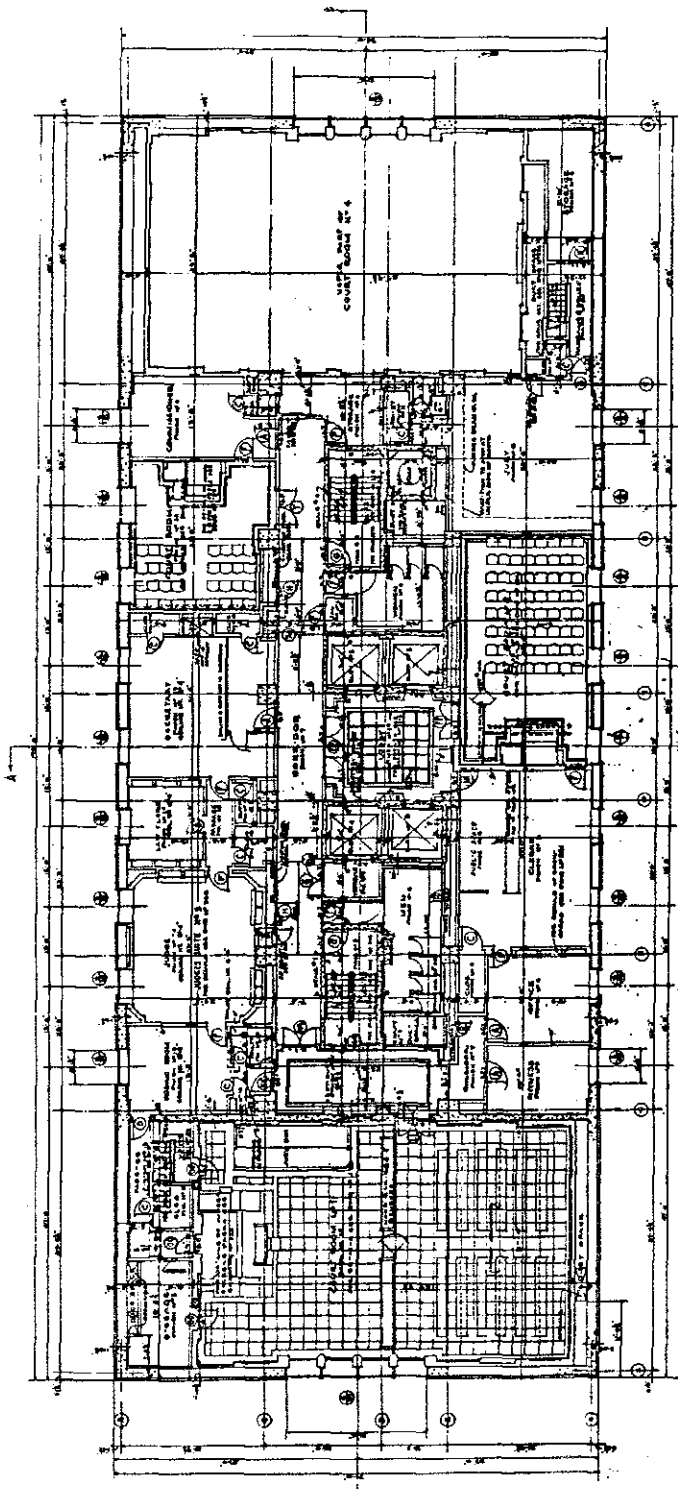
124X -- DO NOT SCALE



GILBERT STANLEY LUDERWOOD  
ARCHITECT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PROCUREMENT DIVISION  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
APPROVED  
[Signature]



HABS NO WA-152  
U.S. COURT HOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
NO. 6  
RETURN TO ROOM 414



SIXTH FLOOR PLAN

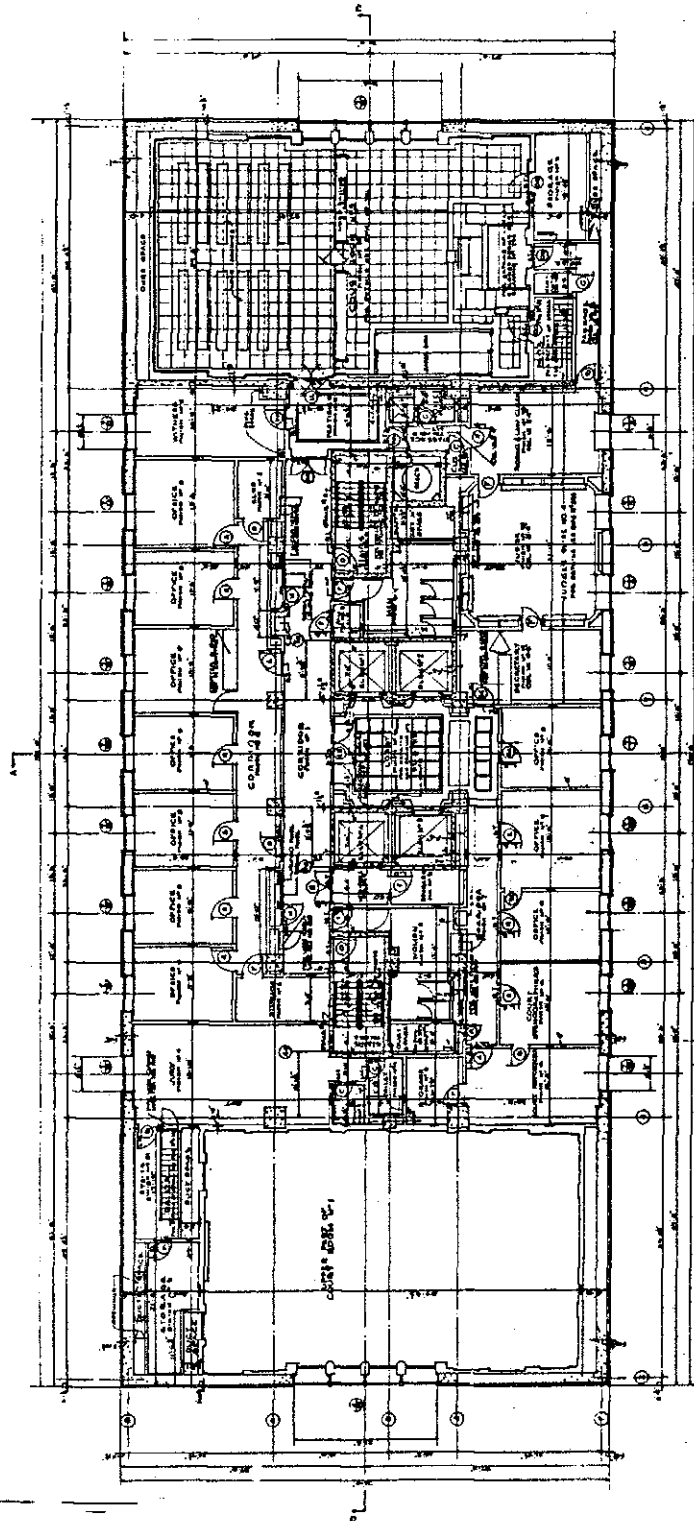
FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED BY THE ARCHITECT FOR THE U.S. COURTHOUSE, SEATTLE, WASH.

124X -- DO NOT SCALE



GUARANTY TRUST AND SAVING BANK  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED

HABS No. WA-152  
No. 9  
RETURN TO ROOM 414



SEVENTH FLOOR PLAN

24X -- DO NOT SCALE



GILBERT, STANLEY, ANDERSON & WOOD	
TREASURY DEPARTMENT	
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH	
APPROVED	

HABS NO. NA-152

0035Z  
RETURN TO ROOM 151.

**24X -- DO NOT SCALE**

PER GENERAL NOTES, ROOM FINISHES & SCHEDULES, SEE DWGS. N-306 & 307. PROVIDE MATERIALS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

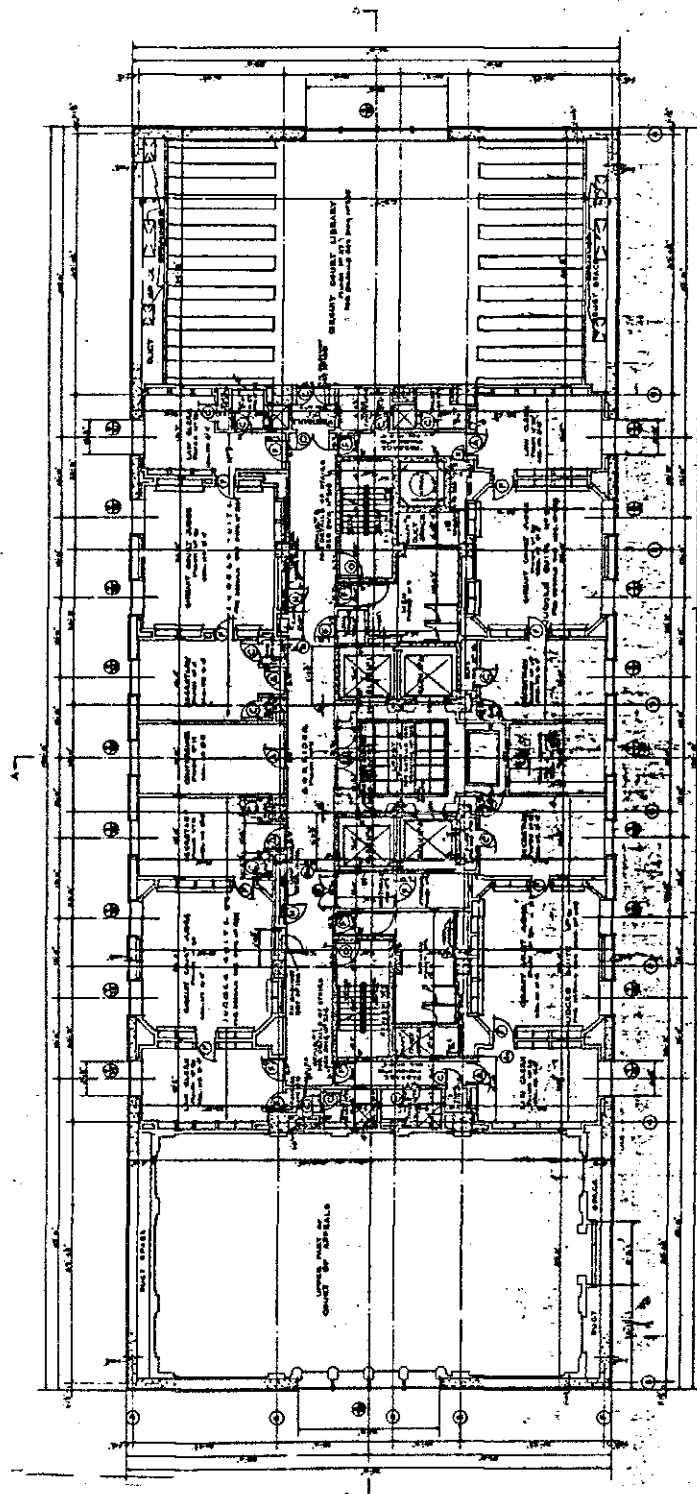
GILBERT STANLEY UNDERWOOD  
CONSULTING ARCHITECT

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT**  
**PROCUREMENT DIVISION**  
C. E. WOODS, Chief of Procurement

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH**  
J. E. BIRNEY, Chief, Procurement Section  
L. J. BROWN, Chief, Contract Section

**APPROVED**  
W. E. DUNN, Chief, Contract Section  
J. E. BIRNEY, Chief, Procurement Section

HABS NO. WA-152  
NO. 11  
RETURN TO ROOM 4100

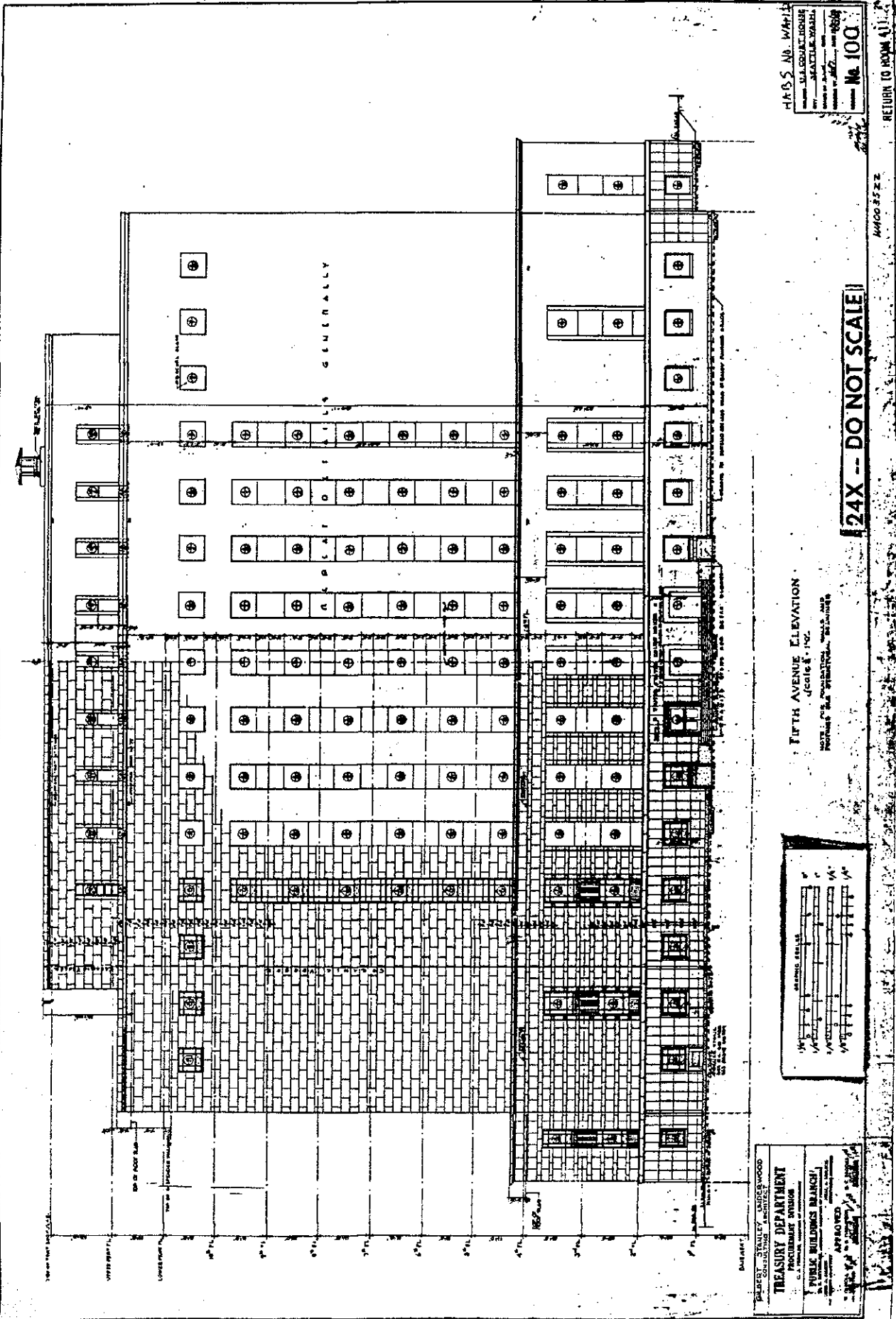


24X -- DO NOT SCALE



GILBERT STALLER GREENWOOD  
CONSULTING ARCHITECT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PROCUREMENT DIVISION  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED



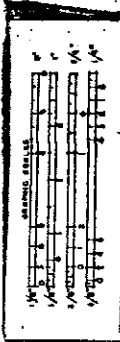


HABS No. WA-152  
U.S. COURT HOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
DRAWN BY J. L. ...  
DATE ...

RETURN TO ROOM 411

24X -- DO NOT SCALE

FIFTH AVENUE ELEVATION  
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



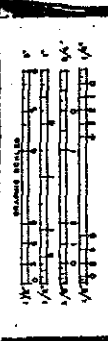
ALBERT STANLEY UNDERWOOD  
CONSULTING ARCHITECT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PROCUREMENT DIVISION  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED  
DATE ...

HABS NO. WA-152  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
NO. 101

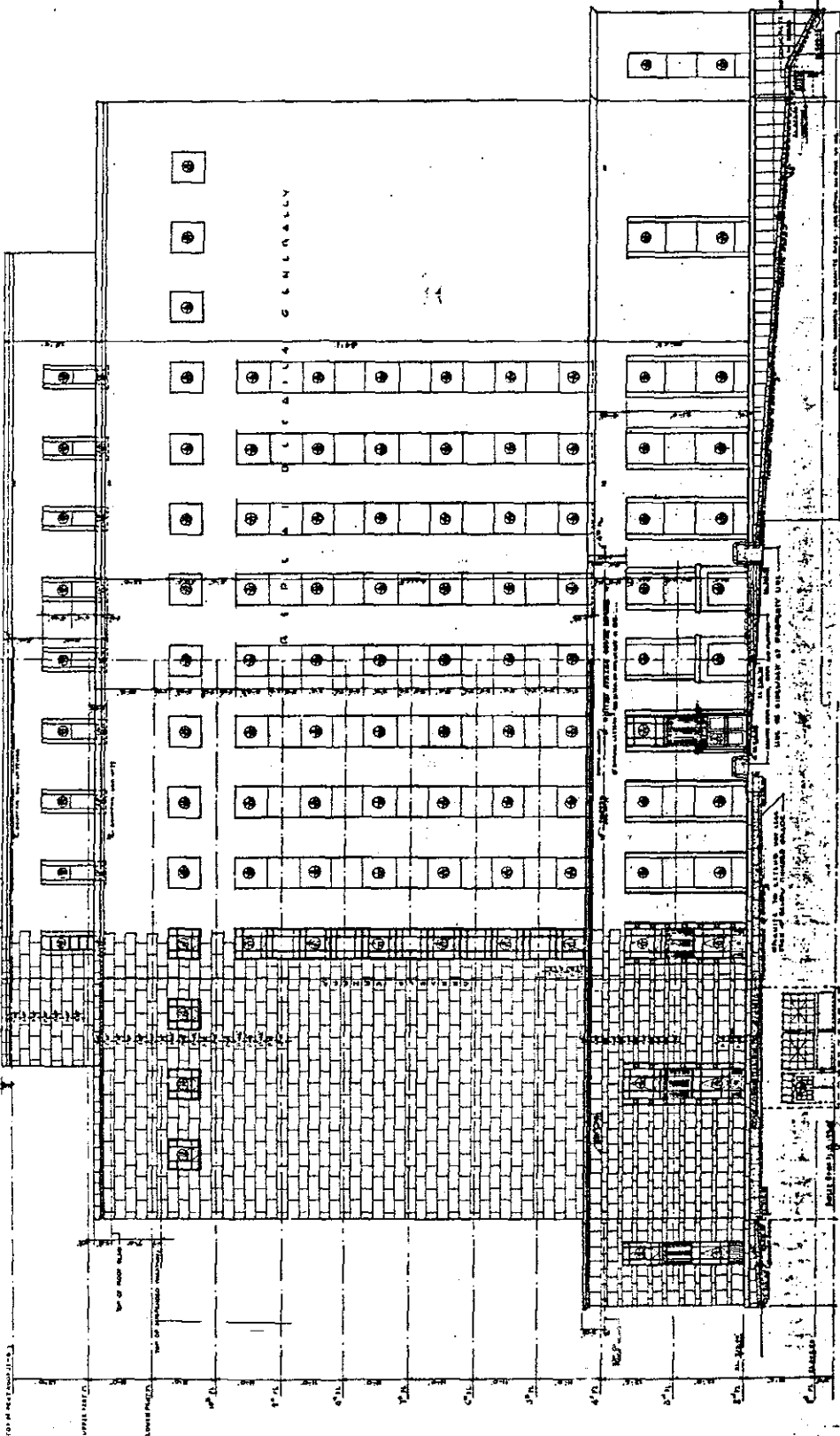
RETURN TO ROOM 4114  
WASHINGTON 25

24X -- DO NOT SCALE

SIXTH AVENUE ELEVATION  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
APPROVED

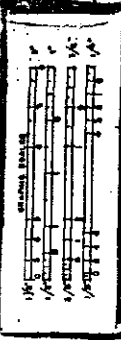


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U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
— No. 102

RETURN TO ROOM 411

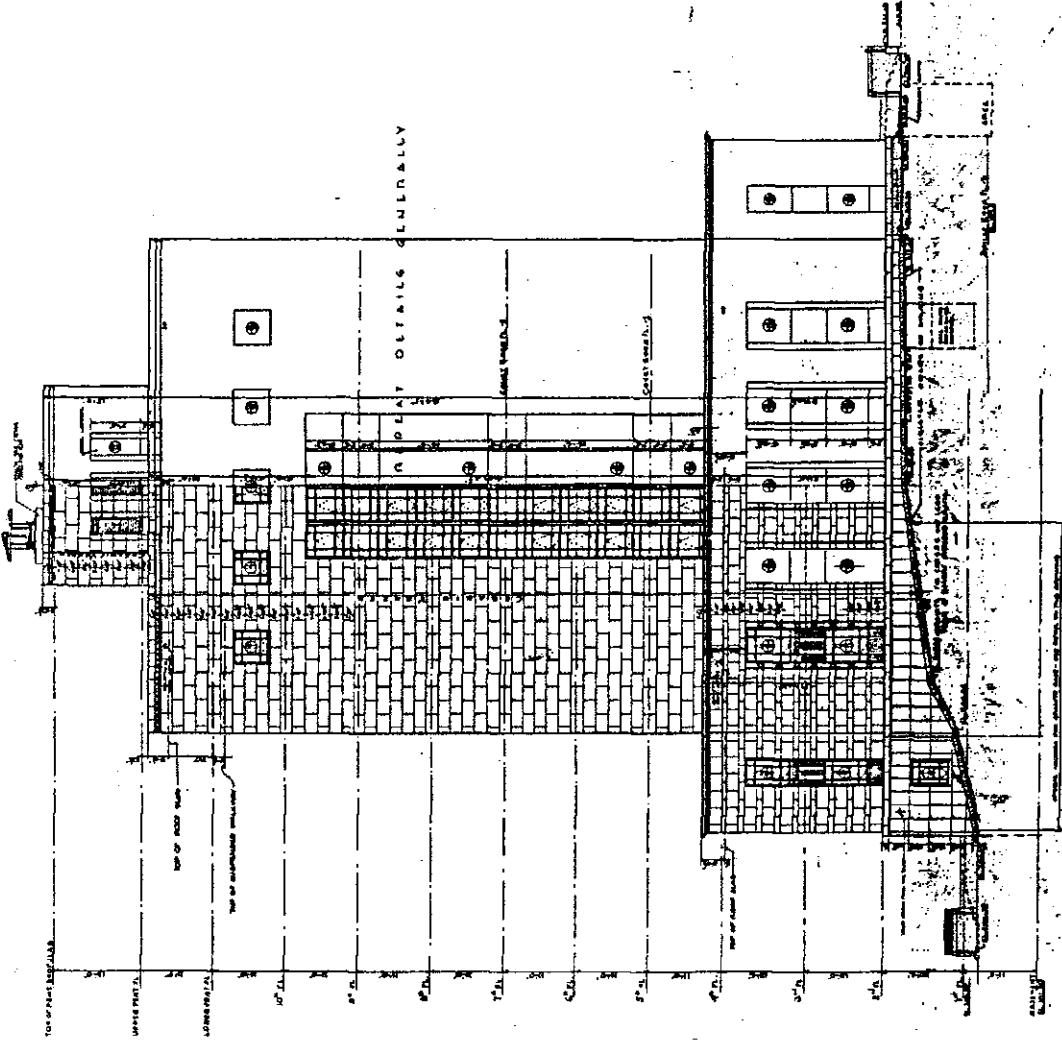
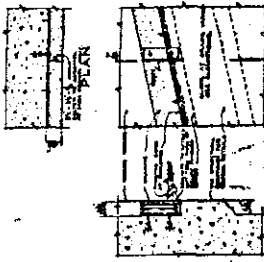
124X -- DO NOT SCALE

MADISON STREET ELEVATION  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



CLARK & STANLEY ARCHITECTS  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
RECORDING DIVISION  
PUBLISHED BY THE  
ARCHITECT  
APPROVED  
DATE

SECTION 2-2  
ELEVATION  
SPECIAL ANCHORS FOR GRANITE BASE



PLAY DETAILS GENERALLY

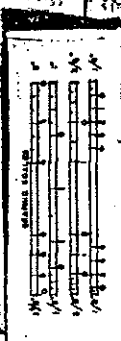


HABS No. WA-152  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
-- No. 103

WOODS

24X -- DO NOT SCALE

SEASIDE STREET ELEVATION



CHAS. F. JENSEN, ARCHT.  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
JULY 1915  
APPROVED  
JULY 1915

HABS NO. WA-152  
No. 104  
RETURN TO ROOM 411

MA002324

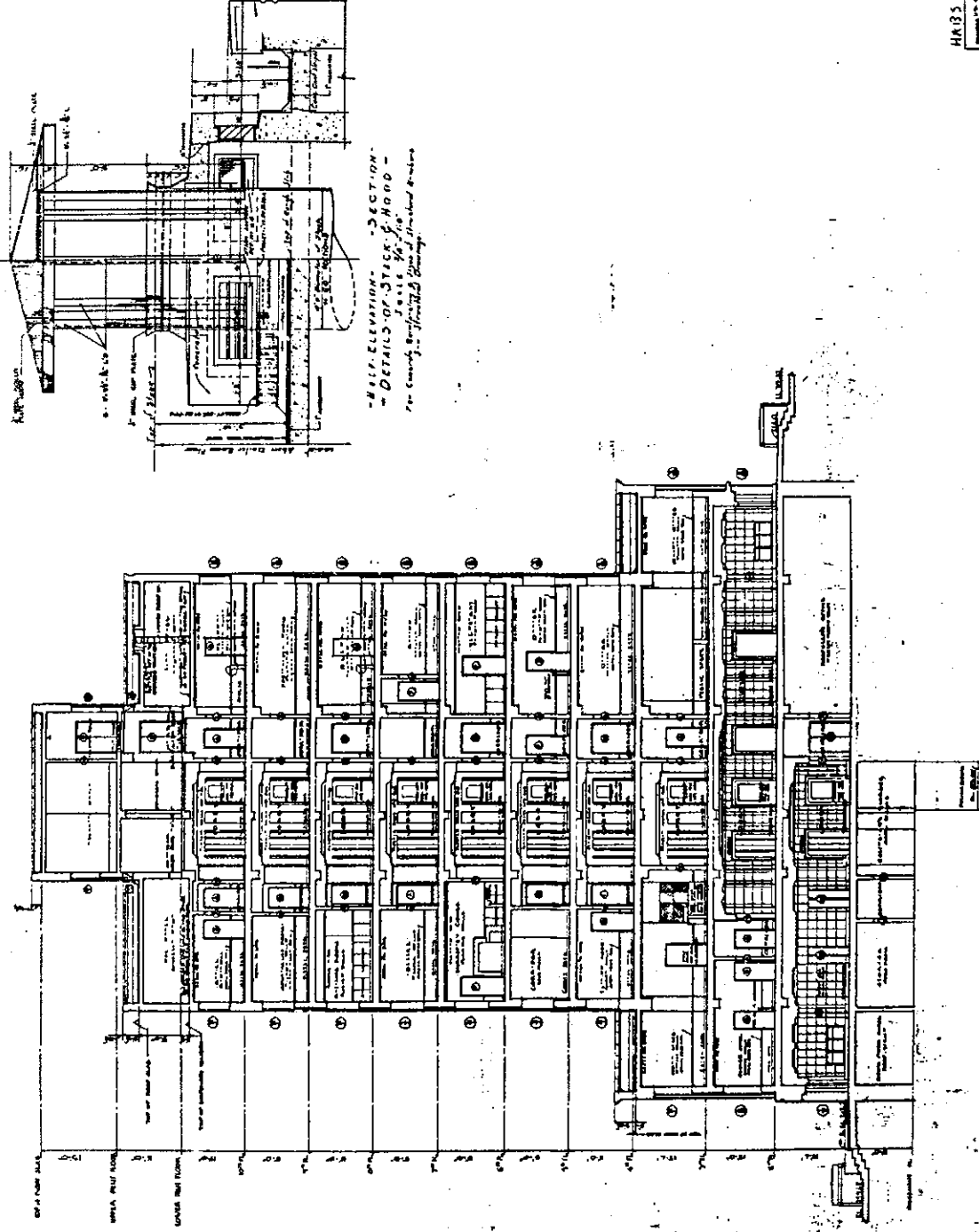
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SECTION - A-A  
NOTE: SEE FOUNDATION WALL AND FOOTING  
IN OTHER

SECTION - A-A

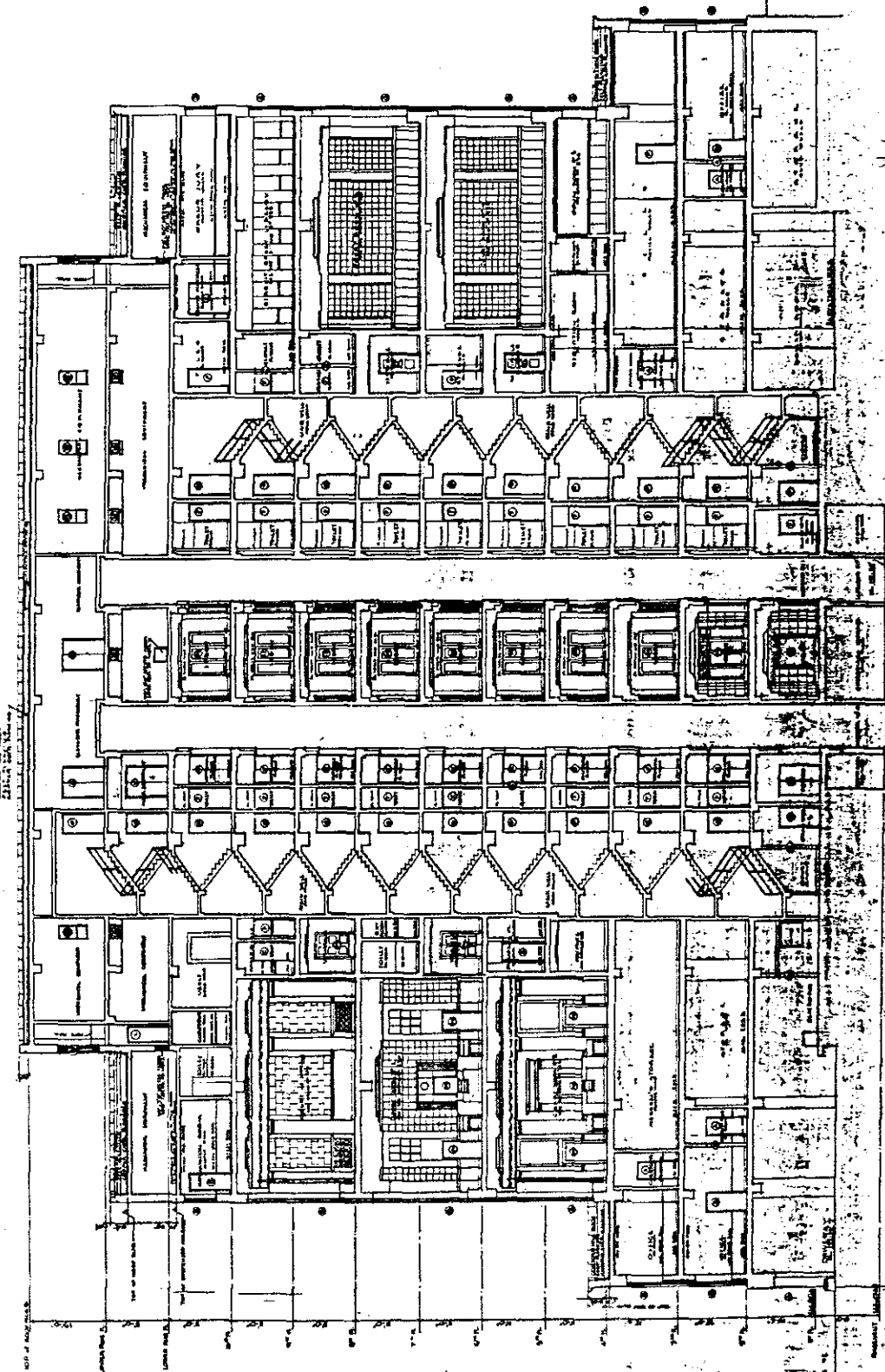
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GLADYS STANLEY UNDERWOOD  
CONSULTING ARCHITECT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED  
JAN 1934



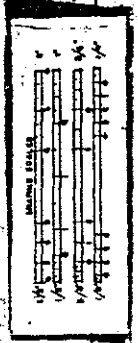
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DETAILS OF STACKS, ROOF -  
See General Notes for details of  
the concrete foundation and footing

HABS NO. WA-152  
— No. 105  
RETURN TO ROOM 411



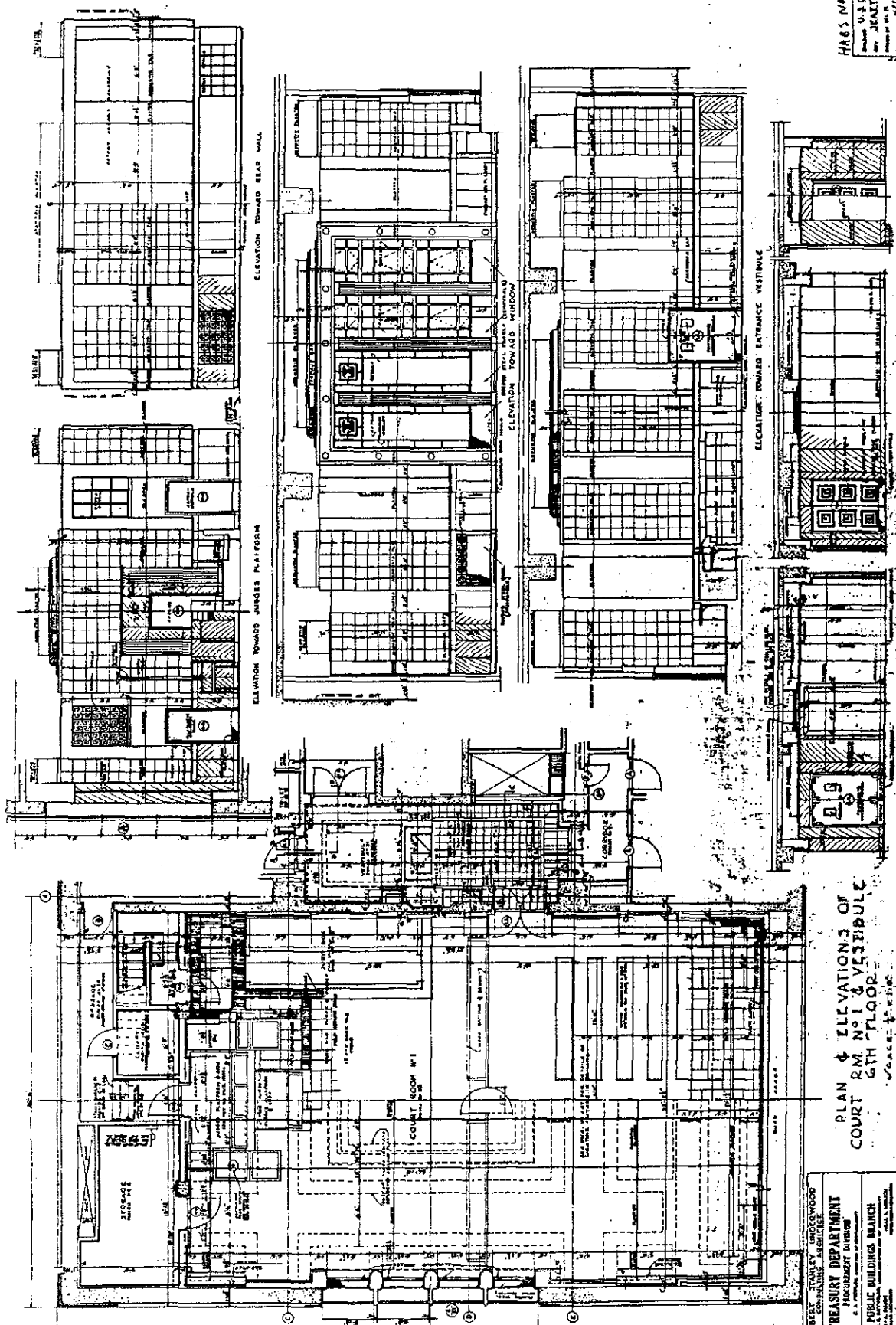
PLAN OF 'D.D.' UNIT

24X -- DO NOT SCALE



GLASS, STEEL, CONCRETE  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDING BRANCH  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

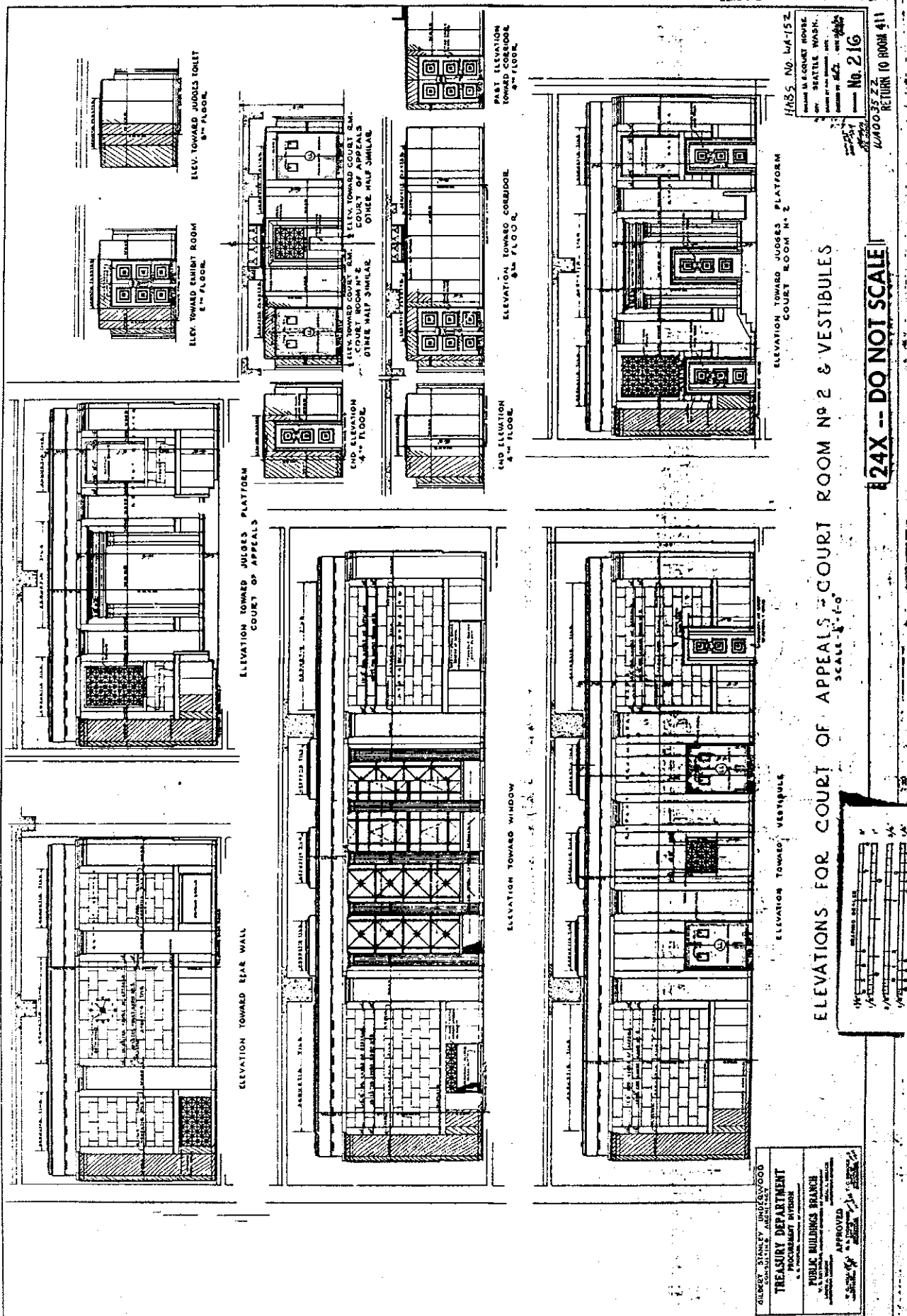
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SEATTLE, WASH.  
No. 220  
RETURN TO BUREAU

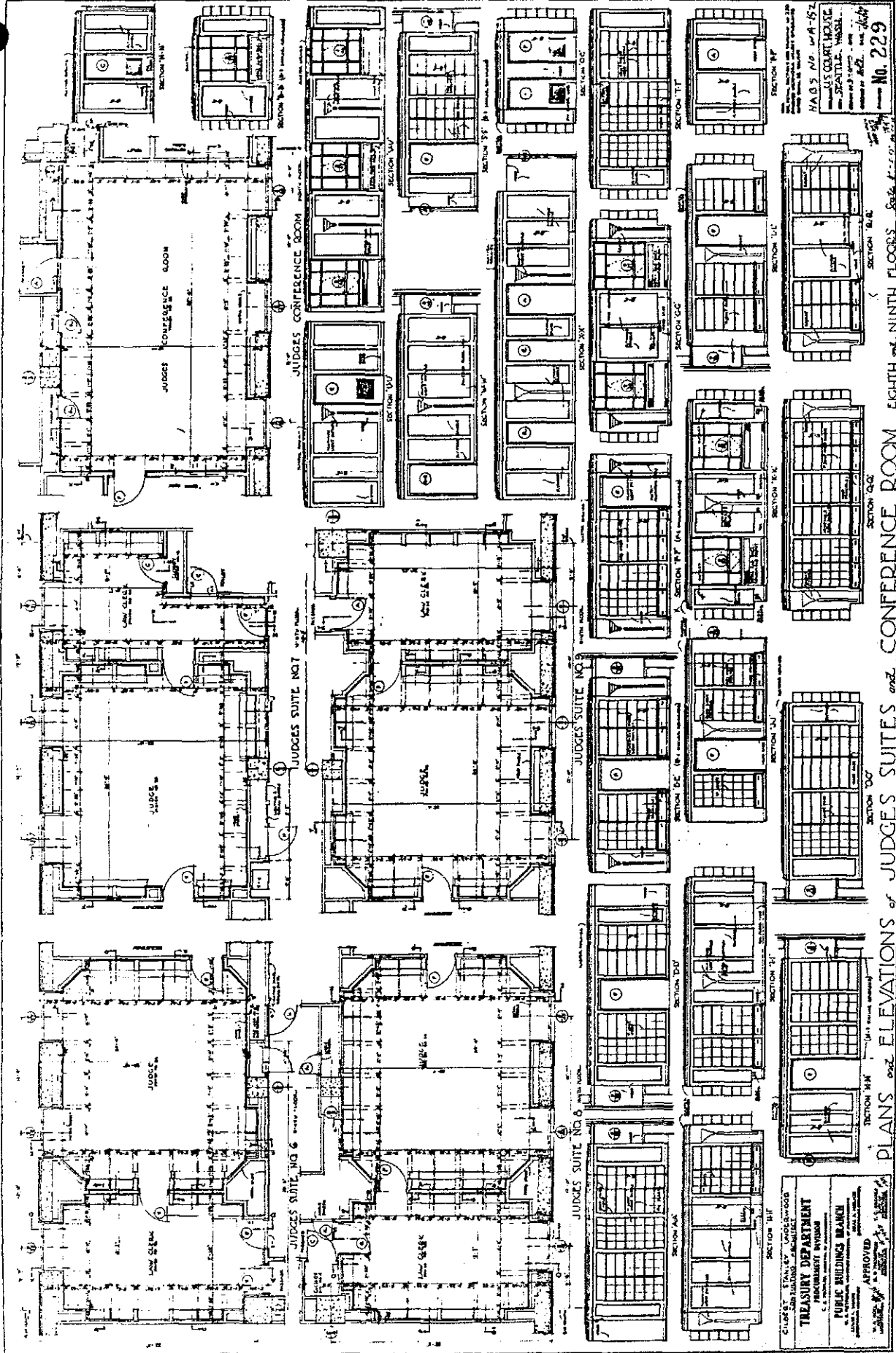


PLAN & ELEVATIONS OF  
COURT RM NO. 1 & VESTIBULE  
6TH FLOOR

CLIFFE WOOD - ARCHITECT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED

24X -- DO NOT SCALE





PLANS and ELEVATIONS of JUDGES SUITES and CONFERENCE ROOM EIGHTH and NINTH FLOORS Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

24X -- DO NOT SCALE

CLARET STANLEY LACROIX  
ARCHITECT  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRANCH  
APPROVED

HABS No. WA-152  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
No. 229

WADSWORTH

Address to:  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
1010 Fifth Avenue  
Seattle  
King County  
Washington

HABS NO. WA-152

HABS  
WASH  
17-SEAT  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

HABS  
WASH  
17-SEAT,  
6-

Data pages 1 through 37 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

**ADDENDUM TO  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
HABS No. WA-152 (Page 38)**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Situated on the eighth floor of the U.S. Courthouse at 1010 5th Avenue, Seattle, Washington, the Judge's Chambers are located within one of the city's outstanding historic landmarks. Completed in 1940, the Courthouse was the first building in the western U.S. to be designed solely for use as a Federal courthouse. With Classical proportions and Art Deco detailing, the Courthouse displays a Modernistic style prevalent in federal architecture pre-dating World War II.

Elements of the building's Modernistic style are reflected in the eighth floor Judge's Chambers. Those features contribute to the significance of the suite of rooms here documented. The Chambers are also significant for having served as U.S. Senator Henry M. Jackson's office during at least a portion of his tenure in Congress (1953-1983), as well as for having housed various U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Judge's Chambers consist of seven rooms (not including toilets and closets) situated along the west wall of the eighth floor of the Courthouse. (For purposes of this documentation, the lobby immediately outside the Chambers is included in this Addendum). Although some minor alterations have occurred over the years, the Chambers retain a high degree of integrity and represent both the austere Modernistic style and dignified appearance in which they were originally constructed. New ceilings in some of the rooms and modern carpeting and fluorescent lighting constitute the bulk of the modifications. The Chambers retain their original floorplan, mahogany paneling and bookshelves, aluminum scone light fixtures, original plaster ceilings in some rooms, and a terrazzo floor in the lobby.

Some of the more outstanding Modernistic features of the eighth floor are found in the elevator lobby. It, like other upper-level lobbies, are simplified versions of the more elaborate lobbies on the main floor. Encompassing about 400 square feet, the eighth floor lobby is illuminated by three pyramid-shaped incandescent light fixtures, each mounted in the center of the three ceiling coffers. (Inset incandescent lights supplement the original stylistic fixtures). The center coffer is plaster and coved. Fluted plaster trim surrounds the elevator doors and the bronze threshold at the east end of the lobby. In 1977 ornamented, double bronze and glass swinging doors separating the lobby from the connecting hallway were removed from the threshold. The two elevators on the south wall and the single elevator on the north wall have baked black enamel doors with single bands of aluminum trim. Original indicator lights remain above the elevator doors, but fluorescent tubes have been installed in the soffit lights. Although the terrazzo floor is original, its simple, large rectangular patterns lack the elaborate designs present in the main floor lobby.



**ADDENDUM TO  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
HABS No. WA-152 (Page 39)**

Three doors within an alcove off the west end of the lobby provide entry to the Judge's Chambers. Directly west of the lobby, a door opens into a small office (195 square feet), which includes a toilet room and closet. Immediately to the south, a second door opens from the lobby into a secretary/receptionist room (250 square feet).

To the south is the judge's office (480 square feet), a law clerk's office (also called a library) (260 square feet), and finally a larger room used for storage (335 square feet). The third door in lobby alcove provides access to a conference room (640 square feet) and a judge's robing room.

Highly-polished dark mahogany paneling covers the walls in the judge's office, law clerk's office, and conference room. Built-in shelving of like material exists in the judge's office and law clerk's office. The same is used in a four-foot-high wainscot in the secretary/receptionist room, as well as in the small office. Ceilings are generally plaster with perimeter coving or soffit, an edge design characterized by several levels of relief of approximately one-half inch depth. Dentil molding accentuates the junction between the ceiling and walls in the conference room, the judge's office, and the law clerk's office. The secretary/receptionist room and small office both have acoustic tile ceilings, while the conference room utilizes acoustic tiles in the center portion of the ceiling. The acoustic tiles and inset fluorescent lights with opaque plastic cover panels were installed in the 1970s. Original cast aluminum sconces with threaded bases mimicking incandescent light bulbs are mounted atop fluted pilasters in the conference room and the judge's office, four in each room. Below the original steel-casement windows with awning and hopper vents are mounted metal-cased fan coil units, which replaced the original cast iron radiators when a modern air conditioning and heating system was installed in 1973.

All interior walls and finishes of the Judge's Chambers are scheduled for demolition. Two original aluminum sconces will be retained in the new conference room. In addition, the three entrance doors in the lobby alcove will be combined by moving the front wall of the Chambers about four feet into the lobby in a fashion similar to that completed on most of the other courtroom floors of the building.

## **HISTORY**

The U.S. Courthouse was designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood, working under Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect. Both men were accomplished architects experienced in the Modernist style, which became popular in federal building designs due in part to Simon's influence. The N.P. Severin Company of Chicago, Illinois, constructed the U.S. Courthouse in Seattle in 1939-1940. Completion of the monumental structure provided office space for various federal agencies previously dispersed around the city.

**ADDENDUM TO  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
HABS No. WA-152 (Page 40)**

It is not known how the eighth floor Judge's Chambers were first used. By 1963 U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judges R.H. Chambers, S.N. Barness, and C.M. Merrill were apparently sharing the space. At the time of his death in 1983, U.S. Senator Henry M. Jackson maintained offices there. The Chambers stood vacant, used only for visiting judges, until May 1984 when Judge Robert R. Beezer assumed his duties with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Beezer and his staff continue to occupy the Chambers.

ADDENDUM TO  
U.S. COURTHOUSE  
HABS No. WA-152 (Page 41)

SOURCES

Bak, Kristine and John Kvapil. Historic Structures Analysis and Report, U.S. Courthouse, Seattle, Washington. Public Buildings Service, February 1980.

Brehm, Myrna L. Secretary to Robert R. Beezer, U.S. Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Seattle. Personal communication, December 1989.

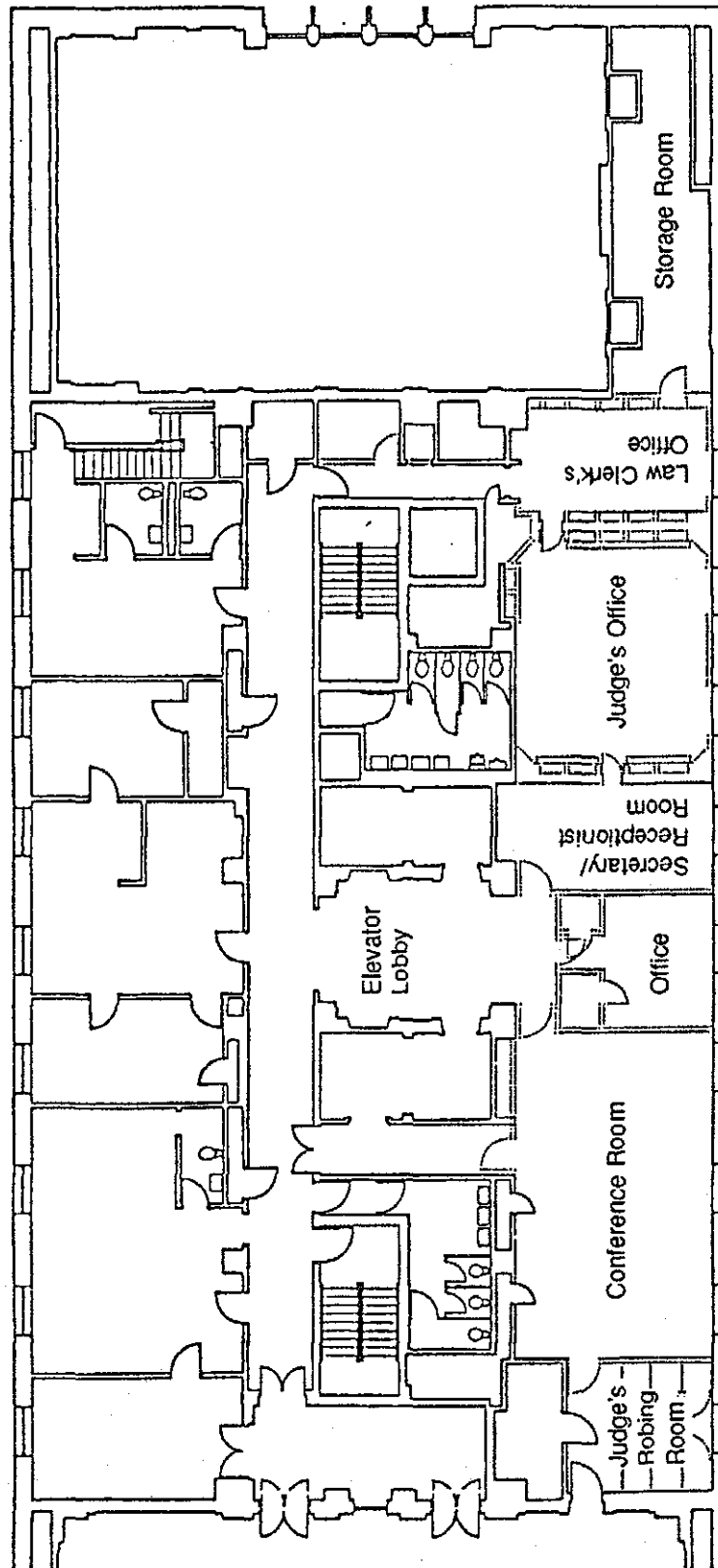
Fodden, C. Anthony. Project Architect, Church-Suzuki Architects, Seattle. Personal communications, November-December 1989.

Kvapil, John. U.S. Courthouse, Seattle, National Register of Historic Places Nomination. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, 1979.

Polk's Seattle Directory. R.L. Polk and Company, various issues, 1953-1983.

PREPARED BY: Craig Holstine  
Historian  
Archaeological and Historical Services, Eastern Washington University  
Cheney, Washington  
December 1989

Judge's Chambers  
U.S. Courthouse, Seattle



Partial Eighth Floor Plan  
no scale

Dotted lines show proposed demolition



Church - Suzuki Architects